

Substitute House Bill No. 6584

Public Act No. 09-221

AN ACT ESTABLISHING CONNECTICUT HERITAGE AREAS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) (a) As used in this section, section 2 of this act and section 16a-27 of the general statutes, as amended by this act, "Connecticut Heritage Area" means a place within the state that has been identified by the General Assembly as having significant historic, recreational, cultural, natural and scenic resources that form an important part of the state's heritage.

- (b) Each state agency, department, board and commission (1) shall consider Connecticut Heritage Areas when developing planning documents and processes, and (2) may partner with the managing entities of such areas on projects concerning, but not limited to, environmental protection, heritage resource preservation, recreation, tourism and trail development.
- Sec. 2. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) The General Assembly recognizes two Connecticut Heritage Areas: (1) The Quinebaug and Shetucket Rivers Valley National Heritage Corridor, and (2) the Upper Housatonic Valley National Heritage Area.
 - Sec. 3. Section 16a-27 of the general statutes is repealed and the

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following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

- (a) The secretary, after consultation with all appropriate state, regional and local agencies and other appropriate persons, shall prior to March 1, 2009, complete a revision of the existing plan and enlarge it to include, but not be limited to, policies relating to transportation, energy and air. Any revision made after May 15, 1991, shall identify the major transportation proposals, including proposals for mass transit, contained in the master transportation plan prepared pursuant to section 13b-15. Any revision made after July 1, 1995, shall take into consideration the conservation and development of greenways that have been designated by municipalities and shall recommend that state agencies coordinate their efforts to support the development of a state-wide greenways system. The Commissioner of Environmental Protection shall identify state-owned land for inclusion in the plan as potential components of a state greenways system.
- (b) Any revision made after August 20, 2003, shall take into account (1) economic and community development needs and patterns of commerce, and (2) linkages of affordable housing objectives and land use objectives with transportation systems.
- (c) Any revision made after March 1, 2006, shall (1) take into consideration risks associated with natural hazards, including, but not limited to, flooding, high winds and wildfires; (2) identify the potential impacts of natural hazards on infrastructure and property; and (3) make recommendations for the siting of future infrastructure and property development to minimize the use of areas prone to natural hazards, including, but not limited to, flooding, high winds and wildfires.
- (d) Any revision made after July 1, 2005, shall describe the progress towards achievement of the goals and objectives established in the previously adopted state plan of conservation and development and

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shall identify (1) areas where it is prudent and feasible (A) to have transit pedestrian-oriented mixed-use compact, accessible, development patterns and land reuse, and (B) to promote such development patterns and land reuse, (2) priority funding areas designated under section 16a-35c, and (3) corridor management areas on either side of a limited access highway or a rail line. In designating corridor management the shall make areas, secretary recommendations that (A) promote land use and transportation options to reduce the growth of traffic congestion; (B) connect infrastructure and other development decisions; (C) promote development that minimizes the cost of new infrastructure facilities and maximizes the use of existing infrastructure facilities; and (D) increase intermunicipal and regional cooperation.

- (e) Any revision made after October 1, 2008, shall (1) for each policy recommended (A) assign a priority; (B) estimate funding for implementation and identify potential funding sources; (C) identify each entity responsible for implementation; and (D) establish a schedule for implementation; and (2) for each growth management principle, determine three benchmarks to measure progress in implementation of the principles, one of which shall be a financial benchmark.
- (f) Any revision made after October 1, 2009, shall take into consideration the protection and preservation of Connecticut Heritage Areas.
- [(f)] (g) Thereafter on or before March first in each revision year the secretary shall complete a revision of the plan of conservation and development.

Approved July 8, 2009